

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

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— SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1899. —

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT.
Hon. J. Holt, Postmaster General, in his report dated Dec. 3d, 1899, opens with a feeling reference to the loss which the department sustained in March last by the death of his deeply-lamented predecessor, and also to that of the Third Assistant Postmaster General—both so long and so honorably connected with the administration of the postal revenues. In addition to these painful losses, the department has had to encounter diffi-

in losses, the department has had to encounter almost insurmountable difficulties occasioned by the failure of Congress to pass the necessary supplementary appropriation bill. With very rare exceptions, subordinates, contractors and others had met the crisis with the same courage and a lofty public spirit, and the mail service has been carried on during the last nine months as comfortably as at any former period. Parties had gone on, depending upon the faith of the Government, until their credit is exhausted, and it is now the duty of Congress to provide for the prompt payment of these just claims. Against the department, with interest thereon.

From this report we learn that the gross revenues of

The total of actual expenditures (paid) and liabilities contracted during the year, amount to \$1,754,562.26, being an excess of \$,696,069.26 over the revenue for the year, and of \$,426,609.26 over the total receipts of the department to \$1,227,953.00.

The total expenditures for the year ending June 30th, 1860, are estimated at \$15,038,627 62. The revenue is estimated at \$8,287,223 00; this revenue, with the balance standing to the credit of the department, and the receipts from divers appropriations, makes the means of the department for the year ending June 30th, 1860

\$860, are estimated at \$15,038,627 62. The revenue is estimated at \$8,287,233 00; this revenue, with the balance standing to the credit of the department, and the receipts from divers appropriations, makes the means of the department for the year ending June 30th, 1861, \$10,222,534 91, leaving a deficiency of means for the year 1860, of \$4,816,092 71. Adding to this the available balance of 710,231 29, the actual estimated deficiency for the year 1860, will be \$5,526,324 00.

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The expenditures for the year ending June, 1861, are estimated at \$15,665,135 04. The revenue at \$8,618,711 00, which with receipts from other sources amounts to \$9,676,711 00, leaving an estimated deficiency for 1861 of \$5,988,424 04, these estimated deficiencies being predicated upon the non-adoption of certain suggested reforms. If these are adopted the Postmaster General thinks that the deficit for 1861 would not exceed \$1,400,000.

There were 192,201,920 stamps, and 30,260,300 stamped envelopes issued to postmasters during the year ending June 30th, 1859.

There is a slight decrease in the lengths of the post routes, but an increase of 4½ per cent. in the annual transportation. The length of the Railroad routes is

There were 192,011,920 stamps, and 30,260,500 stamped envelopes issued to postmasters during the year ending June 30th, 1859.

There is a slight decrease in the lengths of the post routes, but an increase of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the annual transportation. The length of the Railroad routes is 26,010 miles. The whole number of post offices is 28,539, an increase of 562 within the year.

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about 2,000,000 letters actually conveyed through the mails, reached the Dead Letter Office during the year. Of the letters containing valuable enclosures, it appears that the great proportion have been either misdirected or held for postage or addressed to transient persons. The amount of money found in dead letters during the year was \$45,718 14, of which \$41,143 74 was restored to its owners.

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The Mississippi River routes do not pay and are a drain on the treasury, and are mostly useless. The various routes for carrying the mails to and from the Pacific at the beginning of the year cost at the rate of \$2,184,697, and the receipts from them were but \$339,747 66. Much of this has been curtailed. The Tehuantepec and overland routes cost enormously and pay next to nothing. One line cost \$196,448, and

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In order to bring the expenses of the department down to the limits of its revenues, and make it really self-sustaining, the Postmaster General recommends the cutting off of all unprofitable and unnecessary routes, such as the already referred to,—the abolition of the franking privilege—the reduction of the cost of railroad transportation,—and the removal of the

to the limits of its revenues, and make it really self-sufficient, the Postmaster General recommends the cancellation of all unprofitable and unnecessary routes, such as those already referred to,—the abolition of the franking privilege,—the reduction of the cost of railroad transportation, and the payment by government on routing or pre-postal. He calculates that the saving and increase from these sources would amount to \$5,663,333 36, while from this deficit of \$1,342,473 99 which the Government will receive of receipts, and the emoluments still practical would overcome in a few years.

The Postmaster General objects to the passage of newspaper exchanges free through the mails, also to the exemption of weekly papers from postage within the county in which they are published.

He thinks that compensation exacted by Railroads is excessive and unreasonable, and recommends an amendment of the act of 1845. He recommends a reduction of 33 1/3 per cent. upon the maximum rates fixed in that act.

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Some companies will not come under the obligation contained in the usual contracts with the Department. No mail will be delivered to such companies after 31st March next, until they enter into the usual stipulations.

Reference is made to the proposed through express between Portland, Me., and New Orleans, La., and comparison is made between the Southwestern route via Knoxville, and the Atlantic route via Wilmington.

No mail will be delivered to such companies after 31 March next, until they enter into the usual stipulations for the proposed through express mail between Portland, Me., and New York, La., and Boston, Mass. The proposed through express comparison is made between the South-west route via Knoxville, and the Atlantic route via Wilmington, thus:—South-west route—schedule time, 5 days; actual average 6 days 22½ hours; arrivals in schedule time 241; out of time 384. Atlantic route—schedule time, 5 days; actual average 6 days 1½ hours; arrivals in schedule time 403; out of time 286.

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Several routes are mentioned, but, embarrassed as the Department is, the Postmaster General does not feel authorized to make any contract, especially at the high rate of compensation demanded.

The Postmaster General is opposed to any increase in the rates of postage, as unnecessary and decidedly opposed to the popular judgment.

**P. ARMSTRONG'S
PATENT WASHING MACHINE.**

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P. ARMSTRONG'S
PATENT WASHING MACHINE.
LABOR SAVING—THE WORK OF THREE HANDS.
WASHES BOTH WHITE AND COLORED CLOTHING.

THE ABOVE MACHINE is warranted to wash cloth without damaging them in the least, and all the Agents, to sell every family a Machine, is a thorough examination. I have the Rights for Brunswick, Columbus, Bladensburg, Dupin, Onslow and New Hanover counties. A person wishing to examine the Machine, please call at "Armstrong's," near the W. & W. R. Depot, where

DONE BY ONE WITH EASE.
THE ABOVE MACHINE is warranted to wash clothes without damaging them in the least, and all the Agents ask, to sell every family a Machine, is a thorough examination. I have the Rights for Brunswick, Columbia, Bladen, Sampson, Duplin, Onslow and New Hanover counties. A person wishing to see the Machine will please call at *Farmer's House*, near the W. & W. R. R. Depot, where will take pleasure in showing all the particulars.
H. M. Bland, Agent.
 July 19. 47-6m-26s-2r

SAPONIFIER
 OR
CONCENTRATED POTASH
More than Double the Strength of Ordinary Potash
FOR MAKING SOAP WITHOUT LIME, with little cost

July 19.

H. M. BISHOP, Agent.
47-6m-268-2

SAPONIFIER,
OR
CONCENTRATED POTASH

More than Double the Strength of Ordinary Potash
FOR MAKING SOAP WITHOUT LIME, with little trouble
and at trifling expense. The cheapest article ever
discovered for the purpose. One pound will make twelve
fifteen cans of good soft Soap, or nine pounds Hard Soap.
Printers will find it a superior article for cleaning type
it is perfectly soluble and free from impurities.
Broken in small lumps and put up in 1, 2, 4 and 6 pound
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Manufactured at the CHALLENGE CHEMICAL WORKS
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181 Pearl Street, New York

October 7th, 1859—6-ly.